





**INTIMATIONS**

**A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.**

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

**WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.**

**PORTS.**

- (FOR INVALIDS AND GENERAL USE.)
- B.—VINTAGE, superior quality. Red Capsule ... \$14.40
  - C.—FINE OLD VINTAGE, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule ... 16.20
  - D.—VERY FINE OLD VINTAGE, extra superior. Violet Capsule ... 20.40
  - E.—One of the Finest Vintages in the Market. Gold Capsule ... \$9.00
- Port after removal should be rested for a month before use. Wine required for drinking at once should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out. These Wines are too favourably known to need comment.
- Sample bottles and smaller quantities will be supplied at proportionate wholesale rates.
- We guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine only when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

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QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. 126

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS**

Only communications relating to news columns should be addressed to this office. Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with their communications. No notice will be given to any communication unless it is accompanied by a return address. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only. To correspondents who have been previously notified by this office that their communications have been forwarded to other papers will be published in this paper unless they are notified to the contrary. Only communications received by the office on or before the day of publication will be published. Only communications received by the office on or before the day of publication will be published. Only communications received by the office on or before the day of publication will be published.

**MARRIAGES.**

On the 29th November, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Holmes, M.A., LESLIE JAMES, son of Mr. James Leslie, of Hong Kong, to MRS. MARY ANN, daughter of Mr. James Leslie, of Hong Kong.

On Thursday, the 30th November, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Holmes, M.A., HENRY HENRY, son of Mr. Henry Henry, of Hong Kong, to MRS. MARY ANN, daughter of Mr. James Leslie, of Hong Kong.

**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG, December 8th, 1899.

From the telegram from our London correspondent published to-day it will be seen that the merchants interested in the China trade demand that before the tariff question is re-opened China shall give adequate pledges that she will observe the treaties and cease levying arbitrary taxation. The representative mercantile bodies long ago expressed their willingness to assent to a substantial increase of the tariff, but on the condition that payment of the tariff duties freed the goods from all further charges. This condition was unpalatable to China, whose governing class is finally wedded to the system of levying arbitrary and irregular exactions on trade, that being the system by which officials grow rich. The country is now, however, feeling the pinch of financial necessity and something has to be done to raise the wind. An increase of the Customs tariff is the readiest expedient and formal proposals to that effect have been made. The discussion of the question was awaiting the return of Sir Claude MacDonald to Peking, and it is understood that his instructions are to insist on a complete reform of inland taxation as one of the conditions. The question stands in much the same position as it did thirty years ago. In the convention negotiated by Sir Rutherford Alcock in 1859 it was provided that imports should pay both in port duty and transit duty simultaneously at the time of importation, and should thereafter be exempt from all other taxes and charges whatsoever in Treaty port provinces. The merchants, while recognising the abstract advantages of the proposed arrangement, urged that there was no guarantee that China would fulfil her share of the bargain, but that, on the contrary, it was morally certain that the payment of import duty and transit duty simultaneously would amount simply to an increase of the import duty, and that the goods would continue as theretofore to be subject to irregular inland charges. This argument prevailed and ratification of the convention was refused by the British Government. No greater confidence is felt in the Chinese Government and its promises now than was felt then, and the question therefore is, What pledges can be obtained that would justify the Treaty Powers in agreeing to an increase of the tariff? We do not altogether despair of such pledges being forthcoming, not immediately, perhaps, but at no very distant period. It will be noted from our telegram that the President of the United States in his annual message to Congress stated that China still remains the subject of diplomatic discussion. The result of that discussion will no doubt be that some measure of foreign control will be introduced into the Chinese administration, and when that is effected the undertaking of the Government that goods that have paid import duty and transit

goods shall be free of all further exactions may be readily accepted. This would naturally involve the complete reform of inland taxation. All parties are agreed that such reform would greatly stimulate the trade of the country.

**DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.**

**SIR CHARLES MITCHELL STRUCK DOWN BY PARALYSIS.**

Governor Sir Charles Mitchell died this morning from paralysis.

(Lieut.-Colonel Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, late of the Royal Marines, was appointed Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, in 1868, and administered the Government in 1870, 1874, and 1876; Receiver-General, British Guiana, 1877; Colonial Secretary of Natal, November, 1877, to October, 1881, 1882, and 1885-6; Governor of Fiji, 1889; of Leeward Islands, 1888; but did not take up appointment administered Government of Natal and Zululand, 1889, and in the same year received the appointment of Governor. In 1893 he was appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements. During the Crimean War Sir Charles Mitchell, then a Lieutenant of Marines, saw service in the Baltic and was mentioned in despatches. He retired from the Marines as Lieut.-Colonel in 1870.)

**THE UNITED STATES.**

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**

The President's message was coldly received. It recommended an appropriation of \$4,000,000 annually as a ship subsidy.

Naturally, the Message states, is maintained by the United States in the Transatlantic question. Mr. Chamberlain's exaggerations are considered responsible for a reference to avoiding entangling alliances.

Cuba's freedom is promised, but the remarks on this head make it doubtful.

The United States cannot abandon the Philippines.

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A bill has been introduced authorising the laying of a United States Government cable to Hawaii, the Philippines, China, and Japan.

**THE CHINESE TARIFF.**

The merchants want adequate pledges that China will observe the treaties and cease levying arbitrary taxation before the tariff question is re-opened.

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London, 5th December.

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**NATAL.**

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The position appears to be a very strong one and difficult for a frontal attack.

**THE FIGHT AT MODDER RIVER.**

The Boers at Modder River had seven field guns, besides quick-firers.

The guns which were splendidly served, principally by French and German gunners, were routed by the Boers in the night, the British forces being too much exhausted to be able to pursue its advantage.

**MAPEKING.**

Various reports are current that the siege of Mafeking has been abandoned.

**LADYSMITH.**

Runners from Ladysmith report "all well" on the 29th November.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**

President McKinley's message to Congress says that the United States have remained faithful to the principle of avoiding entangling alliances in affairs which do not directly concern themselves, and that the country had observed impartiality to Great Britain and the Transvaal.

The message refers to the most cordial terms to the relations with Great Britain, Germany and France, declares that it is impossible to renounce authority over the Philippines, and recommends the appointment of a commission to study commercial and industrial possibilities in China.

**THE KOREAN COMPANY.**

**A GENEROUS OFFER.**

Madame Kono's Company has generously come forward to aid the fund being raised for the relief of the sufferers by the Boer war. Of the relief of the sufferers by the Boer war. Of the relief of the sufferers by the Boer war. Of the relief of the sufferers by the Boer war.

**HONGKONG POLO CLUB.**

A match will take place on the Causeway Bay ground this afternoon, between teams representing the Navy and Royal Artillery.

**TARIFF REVISION.**

Shanghai, 4th November.

We announced on Thursday that H.E. King, Director-General of Revenue, had been charged by the Emperor with the task of revising the tariff. The Emperor's order was issued on Friday, the 1st instant, a decree was issued appointing H.E. King as the Imperial Commissioner to revise the tariff. The Emperor's order was issued on Friday, the 1st instant, a decree was issued appointing H.E. King as the Imperial Commissioner to revise the tariff.

**HONG KONG CHANG OBTAINED HIS NEW APPOINTMENT.**

It is reported that H.E. Li Hung-chang obtained his recent appointment through the aid of the Emperor's order. The Emperor's order was issued on Friday, the 1st instant, a decree was issued appointing H.E. King as the Imperial Commissioner to revise the tariff.

**TELEGRAMS.**

**"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.**

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7th November.

**IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.**

**BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MASON GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).**

Mr. Branton appeared on behalf of the debtor who is a bankrupt. Mr. Branton appeared on behalf of the debtor who is a bankrupt. Mr. Branton appeared on behalf of the debtor who is a bankrupt.

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